

women are a class act, and I am proud to represent them and Rutgers University here in Congress.

After outrageous comments were made about the team by Don Imus on his CBS radio and MSNBC show, the team showed great courage in choosing to meet with him so he could see firsthand how wrong his sexist and racist comments were. During this emotionally and mentally exhausting ordeal, these remarkable young women were graceful and poised as they became media headlines for controversy.

And I strongly denounce Don Imus' divisive comments. They were disgusting, and they have no place in our everyday language, let alone on a nationally televised radio and television program. His comments not only affected these players, but resonated with women and African Americans across the Nation.

These were innocent student athletes living out their basketball dreams. They did not deserve to be his target. And MSNBC's decision to pull his television broadcast and CBS' firing of him displayed great moral character, and I support their choices.

His comments, Imus' comments, deprived these women of fully enjoying their accomplishments of being crowned Big East champions, going to the Final Four, and making history as the first athletic team from Rutgers to play for a national championship. All-Met Division I Player of the Year Kia Vaughn said it best when she said, "Our moment was stolen from us."

I want to talk about this team, Mr. Speaker. Rutgers had a Cinderella season that saw them come back from some devastating early season losses, including a 40-point loss to Duke. Under head coach C. Vivian Stringer, the Scarlet Knights finished their amazing season with a 27-9 record. The team fought improbable odds to reach the pinnacle NCAA title game, and maintained enormous composure when nasty comments overshadowed their record-breaking season.

I am immensely proud of this extraordinary team. Last week the Nation had an opportunity see a group of outstanding student athletes who were striving to reach lifetime goals, both on and off the basketball court. By excelling in academics, music and community service, they are great role models for student athletes across the Nation.

The Scarlet Knights women basketball players are excellent representatives of Rutgers University and the State of New Jersey, and they should be honored for their hard work, dedication, and heart.

Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a resolution commending the Scarlet Knights women's basketball team for their record-breaking season and their outstanding achievement off the basketball court. I am hopeful Congress will recognize these fine women by passing this resolution tomorrow.

HONORING BROWNIE SCOUT TROOP 114

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the patriotic efforts of Brownie Scout Troop 114 of Liberty Grove Baptist Church. This group of 18 young women has demonstrated a tangible commitment to supporting our troops stationed in Iraq. Last month they collected donations to send nearly 250 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to the brave men and women from their community who are serving in Iraq.

They pounded the pavement to sell cookies and find like-minded people who were willing to join them in sending cookies to a local North Carolina National Guard unit stationed near Tikrit, Iraq. I applaud the thoughtful and committed patriotism of these girls who invested their time to selflessly raise money and then send a token of appreciation to our Nation's troops.

The troops that are receiving the famous Girl Scout cookies are members of the headquarters 105th Engineer Group from Winston-Salem. For these men and women, there is no small act of kindness. No, this is much more than that. For our troops on the front line of the war on terror, to receive a package of cookies from a local Brownie Scout troop is like receiving a breath of fresh air from home. Whether or not these young women knew it, they were communicating to our soldiers that there are people who still care for our troops' welfare. They communicated that the youngest generation still values sacrifice and service to country.

I come to the floor today to celebrate this concentrated act of patriotic kindness and to honor the young ladies who have taken ownership of our Nation's great tradition of offering support to our troops serving abroad. Their example highlights what our great Nation is capable of producing in its youth.

We cannot emphasize enough how proud we are that these Scouts made this effort to brighten the days of hundreds of soldiers in Iraq. What may seem like a small token of gratitude will live on in the memory of the many troops who, in the coming weeks, will enjoy a box of Girl Scout cookies in the deserts of Iraq. I have no doubt that these men and women will look back with great fondness as they remember the day when the mail call brought them an unexpected box of sweets and a reminder that their community and their country stands behind them in this difficult time.

The members of the Brownie troop who sent this gift of baked goods are Alexandra Dillard, Reva Combs, Laken Harrold, Allison Livengood, Allie Barker, Lauren Johnson, Daniella Meeza, Kristina Meeza, Acacia Key, Charlotte York, Cheyenne Byrd, Alexis Baldwin, Erin McGee, Angela Nardini, Karlie

Cranfill, Caitlyn Minton and Hope Brown.

It is my hope that their example is reproduced by many others, and that the soldiers who receive the fruit of their labors feel honored and respected by this act of young-hearted kindness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CHILDREN: UNCOUNTED IRAQ CASUALTIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I had intended to rise this evening to focus my attention on the suicide bombing last week in Baghdad that killed and wounded several members of the Parliament, including Osama al-Nujafii. He was a member of the Iraq Parliament who participated in a historic live teleconference I hosted last month linking several of my House colleagues with several Iraq Parliamentarians. I wish him and the others wounded in the attack a speedy recovery.

That attack occurred inside the Green Zone, and it confirms that no one is safe in Iraq, no matter how many checkpoints or blast walls or press releases out of the White House. It confirms that the President's military escalation has only escalated the violence and the casualties. It confirms that the President has no control whatsoever on the events on the ground. And it confirms that the American people are right to demand that the President work with the Democratic Congress and establish a firm timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

For now, most Americans are grimly aware of the weekend of bombings and killings across Iraq. But the situation is even worse. The Iraq war will live long after the U.S. forces leave the country.

As a child psychiatrist, I was shocked to learn of a new study looking at the effects this war is having on Iraqi children. I submit the story from USA Today for the RECORD. It is the first comprehensive look at the impact the war is having on innocent Iraqi children. The Ministry of Health surveyed 2,500 primary school kids in Baghdad, and 70 percent of those young kids displayed symptoms of trauma-related stress. As the USA Today reported, many Iraqi children have been physically wounded, and many are psychologically scarred. They are the uncounted casualties of the Iraq war. Thousands of innocent Iraqi children

are uncounted casualties. But for all these innocent Iraqi children, this war will rage on for them for years to come. They will face a life of anguish, and, in fact, will be the ones who, in the future, are the future violent ones we worry about.

For all these innocent Iraqi children, this war will rage on for years to come. In some cases, these children will face a lifetime of anguish and suffering, and not one of these children is being counted as a casualty.

These children routinely walk through carnage on their way to school, when they go at all.

These children are routinely exposed to random violence and killings that burn images in their minds that will scar them for life.

As a child psychiatrist, I can only echo the conclusions of one Iraqi doctor who was interviewed by USA Today.

"Some of these children are time bombs," said Said al-Hashimi, a psychiatrist who teaches at an Iraqi Medical School.

In this excerpt from USA Today, al-Hashimi said he is concerned Iraqi children could become the next generation of fighters and fuel violence for years to come.

Because of what they are living through as youngsters, "they may think it's better to martyr themselves for religion or country," al-Hashimi said.

The only hope for these uncounted casualties is treatment.

But, as the USA Today story points out, there is only one government run psychiatric hospital in Baghdad—a city of 6 million people, or put more accurately, a city of 6 million casualties.

And then there are the uncounted casualties of Iraqi children in Basra, Rumadi, Najaf, Karbala, Mosul, Kirkuk, Fallujah, Baqubah, and all the other places Iraqi children live.

Until the war ends, there is virtually no chance that thousands of innocent Iraqi children will be treated for their war wounds.

We can only estimate how many thousands of Iraqi children need urgent psychological attention. We know they are not going to get it until this war ends.

There is a timetable for doing just that, and the President should stop listening to his discredited Vice President and start listening to reason and reality.

Now, in the face of that, our Speaker has led this Congress to set a time line that the President says, I will ignore. The President said, I will ignore the people, I will ignore the vote of 2006. No matter what the Speaker does, I am going to attack her.

So the Speaker took the Iraq Study Group's book that said we ought to talk to the people in Syria. For those of you who don't know, Syria is right up next to Iraq. And it is on the border. And there are Presidential accusations that people are coming in from Syria into Iraq, creating trouble and killing our troops. This is on its way to being the most deadly month in 5 years.

Now, for the Speaker to take her time and carefully plan and go over and talk to the leadership of Syria about attacks being made on Americans is, in my view, it is part of her legislative responsibility to the people, not only of her district, but the entire

country. And for someone to come out here and accuse her of a violation of the Logan Act. Now this is a 200-year-old act that no one has ever been prosecuted under because there are real questions as to whether it prevents Members of the Congress from using their first amendment rights to talk out on behalf of the people that they represent.

In 1980, the State Department maintained that a visit to Cuba by Senators John Sparkman and George McGovern was not inconsistent with the Logan Act. Nothing in the act, they said, "would appear to restrict Members of Congress from engaging in discussions in pursuance of their legislative duties under the Constitution."

In 1976 the State Department was asked to weigh in as to whether former President Nixon violated the Logan Act by visiting China. The Department stated that Mr. Nixon's trip was taken entirely in his capacity as a private citizen and that the Department "was unaware of any basis for believing Mr. Nixon acted with intent prohibited" by the act. The Department has noted that no one has ever been prosecuted under this act.

This kind of attack on the Speaker will be answered in full again and again. Make no mistake about that.

The article previously referred to follows:

[From USA TODAY]

70% OF IRAQI SCHOOLCHILDREN SHOW SYMPTOMS OF TRAUMA

(By James Palmer)

BAGHDAD—About 70% of primary school students in a Baghdad neighborhood suffer symptoms of trauma-related stress such as bed-wetting or stuttering, according to a survey by the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

The survey of about 2,500 youngsters is the most comprehensive look at how the war is affecting Iraqi children, said Iraq's national mental health adviser and author of the study, Mohammed Al-Aboudi.

"The fighting is happening in the streets in front of our houses and schools," al-Aboudi said. "This is very difficult for the children to adapt to."

The study is to be released next month. Al-Aboudi discussed the findings with USA TODAY.

Many Iraqi children have to pass dead bodies on the street as they walk to school in the morning, according to a separate report last week by the International Red Cross. Others have seen relatives killed or have been injured in mortar or bomb attacks.

"Some of these children are suffering one trauma after another, and it's severely damaging their development," said Said Al-Hashimi, a psychiatrist who teaches at Mustansiriyah Medical School and runs a private clinic in west Baghdad. "We're not certain what will become of the next generation, even if there is peace one day," Al-Hashimi said.

The study was conducted last October in the Sha'ab district of northern Baghdad. The low- to middle-income neighborhood is inhabited by a mix of Shiites and Sunni Arabs. Al-Aboudi said he believes the sample was broadly representative of conditions throughout the capital.

In the study, schoolteachers were asked to determine whether randomly selected students showed any of 10 symptoms identified

by the World Health Organization as signs of trauma. Other symptoms included voluntary muteness, declining performance in school or an increase in aggressive behavior.

The teachers received training from Iraqi psychologists on how to identify and help students cope with trauma-related stress, al-Aboudi said.

The study "shows the impact of the violence and insecurity on the children and on children's mental health," said Naeema Al-Gasseer, the Iraqi representative of the WHO. "They have fear every day."

The Iraqi government is aware of the problem but largely unequipped to address it, said Ali al-Dabbagh, a government spokesman. "Until we have proper security in Baghdad, there's not much we can do to help these children," Al-Dabbagh said in Washington.

IRAQIS FEAR WAR'S LONG-TERM COST TO KIDS

(By James Palmer)

BAGHDAD—Ahmed Al-Khaffaji, 6, refused to leave his house for nearly a year after shrapnel from a mortar shell ripped through his left arm, rendering it useless.

Hussain Haider was only 5 when he stopped speaking after watching his father slowly bleed to death on the living room floor of the family's Sadr City home.

Iraqi psychiatrists worry about the long-term consequences of a generation that has been constantly exposed to explosions, gun-fights, kidnappings and sectarian murders. "Some of these children are time bombs," said Said al-Hashimi, a psychiatrist who teaches at Mustansiriyah Medical School.

Mental health professionals such as al-Hashimi say that there is a chronic shortage of trained psychiatrists and that schools are the front line for treating traumatized children.

Ahmed's skin was badly scarred, and he suffered burns on both legs when a mortar round slammed into his family's south Baghdad home on Jan. 1, 2006.

His mother, Safia Hussain Ali, said that for nearly a year afterward, her son feared leaving the house and often refused to eat.

Today, Ahmed attends school, but his behavior occasionally regresses, and he retreats from reality.

"Sometimes he refuses to eat and just wants to watch TV or play video games," Ali said.

Haider al-Malaki, 40, a psychiatrist at the government-run Ibn Rushd Hospital, said he has treated children as young as 6 with post-traumatic stress disorder. He said he has also seen children with sleeping and eating disorders that can be traced to the violence.

MORE AGGRESSION

"They have all experienced some kind of psychological trauma, whether they witnessed a murder or survived a kidnapping attempt," al-Malaki said. "When they witness violence, they're more likely to display aggressive and reckless behavior" later.

Al-Hashimi said he is concerned Iraqi children could become the next generation of fighters and fuel violence for years to come. Because of what they are living through as youngsters, "they may think it's better to martyr themselves for religion or country," al-Hashimi said.

Al-Hashimi set up a workshop this year to help teachers and school officials deal with students suffering from war-related trauma. He urges educators to get kids to release their emotions through activities such as academic competitions and soccer games.

"Schools in hot areas are still functioning," Al-Hashimi said, referring to volatile Baghdad neighborhoods. "Unfortunately, many people don't know how to handle the children in this situation."

Attacks on or near schools have forced Iraqi teachers and other school staff to try to protect their students.

"Children are very perceptive of teachers' moods and actions," said Hadoon Waleed, a psychology professor at Baghdad University. "It's very important that teachers are trained to handle their students during stressful situations."

Fawad Al-Kaisi, 59, headmaster at the Al-Hurriyah primary school in south Baghdad, said his staff has learned through experience.

"When explosions go off in the area, the students become very nervous," Al-Kaisi said. "We try our best to create a positive environment to make them feel safe."

Like others among Iraq's professional elite, psychiatrists are scarce, in part because they have been targets of kidnappers and assassins.

Al-Malaki, the psychiatrist at Ibn Rushd, survived two bullet wounds in his right arm from an assassination attempt in his clinic last year. He is among the few psychiatrists who have remained in Iraq and continued to work.

The Iraqi Society of Psychiatrists estimates at least 140 of the country's 200 psychiatrists were killed or have fled the country in the past four years.

LITTLE HELP AVAILABLE

A shortage of psychiatric facilities further limits the availability of mental health care. Ibn Rushd is the only government-funded psychiatric hospital in Baghdad, a city of 6 million people.

For Hussain Haider, now 7, and other children, the need is urgent. He stopped speaking for months after his father was killed in a crossfire between fighters of the Mahdi Army, a Shiite militia group, and U.S. forces April 6, 2004.

Hussain's mother, Thuraya Jabbar, said his grades have fallen, and he is awakened frequently by nightmares.

"He starts crying whenever we start speaking about his father," she said.

DENOUNCING THE REPREHENSIBLE COMMENTS OF DON IMUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first let me take a moment to offer my condolences to the families of the victims of the terrible and senseless violence at Virginia Tech. As they struggle to cope with their tremendous loss, we must give proper respect to their lives and the lives of the thousands of innocent people that are cut short every year in this country by gun violence. And let us honor their memories by committing ourselves to bringing an end to gun violence.

Before I begin, I want to commend my colleague, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, because today is the 200th time she has come to this floor to speak out against this unnecessary war in Iraq. I commend your tenacity, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, and I thank you for your leadership and your commitment to ending the occupation of Iraq and to bringing our troops home. I am proud to serve with you in this body as your colleague and as co-chair of the Progressive Caucus, and I want to say to you that your voice has become the voice of America. Thank you, Congresswoman WOOLSEY.

Let me also thank the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman KILPATRICK, and members of the CBC for their leadership in addressing and denouncing the latest reprehensible comments by Don Imus.

First, I want to congratulate the Rutgers women's basketball team. We are so proud of you. Your record of achievement as women, as students, as athletes speaks for itself and no one can take away your accomplishments.

As we all know, on April 4, the morning talk show host Don Imus, who has, for years, mind you, for years, made disparaging remarks towards people of color and others, referred to the very distinguished women of the Rutgers basketball team with such disgusting words that I don't even want to repeat them.

Not only did his comments belittle the ethnicity of these women of valor, but he apparently felt entitled to denigrate these women as women. We are here today to say that there is no place for that kind of sexism and racism in our public discourse.

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So while we acknowledge MSNBC and CBS did the right thing by firing Imus, we need to ask the question, what took so long? CBS's initial response, which was to suspend Imus 2 weeks with pay, suggested that they thought that a token punishment would appease the public outcry and demonstrated a complete disregard and insensitivity to both the women of the Rutgers basketball team and the millions of Americans who were outraged by the comments.

The fact is, this incident is just one of many Imus should have been fired for a long time ago. For example, he should have been fired 14 years ago when he referred to Gwen Ifill, who was then the White House correspondent for the New York Times, and he said, "Isn't the Times wonderful? It lets the cleaning lady cover the White House." The point is this was not an isolated incident.

If you look back at what he said with regard to New York Times sports reporter Bill Rhoden, he said he was a "quota hire." When you look at what he said about the tennis player, Amelie Mauresmo, he called her "a big old . . ." And I don't even want to say what he said there, but go back and check the record. He even admitted that he picked one of his producers to do the "N jokes."

You know, this is unbelievable. The point is, and I want to make this clear, this is not an isolated incident. And while I, for one, am glad that his show has been cancelled, I believe that we should be concerned with the fact that it took him so long to be taken off the air.

It is also important to understand that this is just not about Imus. There is a tendency in this country to treat racism as an issue of personal ill will so that people can say to themselves "I

don't hate black people" and ignore all of the ways that the status quo in our society today reinforces racial inequality as well as sexism. Institutional racism and sexism don't need any personal ill will in order to continue. They rely on indifference, and people like Imus promote that indifference.

The grim reality is that women still earn 75 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. The fact is that in the United States a woman is raped every 6 minutes, and women of color are especially vulnerable to sexual violence. The fact is that, in spite of all the progress we have made in America, an African American woman is still less likely to make it to college than a white woman.

What is dangerous about people like Imus, and he is only one of many, is that their racist and their sexist commentary serves to celebrate and uphold the status quo, to make it okay to be indifferent to the racism and sexism that still surrounds us. That is unacceptable.

Finally, let me just say to Imus's sponsors: Let me congratulate you again, you did the right thing. But before you get too complacent, let me remind you, Procter & Gamble and American Express and all the rest, that the makeup of your corporate board rooms reflects the indifference to institutional racism and sexism in this country, and we are looking to you to do more than stop sponsoring bigots. We are looking to you to help young women, young black women like the women on the Rutgers basketball team, to overcome the hurdles that face them and to find the opportunities that are too often denied them.

So let me thank again Congresswoman KILPATRICK for her leadership in the Congressional Black Caucus. Also let me say thank you again, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, for your leadership.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLSWORTH). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

REMARKS ON DON IMUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by expressing condolences to all of those who were directly affected by the gun violence that has just taken the lives of so many young people with so much promise. Again, I think it is an indication of a tremendous need to better regulate the acquisition and ownership of guns in our country, and I join with all of those who call for increased regulation.

Mr. Speaker, America's radios, televisions, newspapers, and Internet sites